

HALENIA DEFLEXA, Grisebach, var. **heterantha**. Similar to the species, but with the corollas all spurless, or only the earliest bearing spurs; the lower spurless flowers mostly smaller than the others. — *H. heterantha*, Griseb. in Hook. Fl. Bor.-Am. ii. 68, t. 156 B. — Originally collected in Newfoundland (*Miss Brenton*) and subsequently on the Caribou Islands, Labrador (*Martin*). Recently found by the author at a number of Maine stations, — Houlton, August, 1897; Island Falls, September, 1897; Mattawamkeag, East Eddington and Winslow, September, 1898, — growing by itself or with the typical spurred form, on damp gravelly wooded banks, or on pasture-knolls.

Occasionally plants of this spurless variety are found with the flowers singularly contorted and converted into clusters of foliaceous bracts. Both the variety and the typical plant may be looked for, from late July to September, in New Brunswick, Maine, and western Massachusetts. Only one station for the species, and that in the northern portion of the state, is given in Perkins's list of Vermont plants; and, so far as we are informed, the plant has not been collected in New Hampshire, not even in the White Mountains. Reports of either form of the species in those states or elsewhere in New England will be of great interest, since its distribution in New England, as now understood, is decidedly unique for a plant of so general occurrence a little further north; most boreal plants which reach western Massachusetts being abundant, at least in the mountains, in New Hampshire and Vermont.

## THE NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB.

E. F. WILLIAMS.

THE New England Botanical Club was established on December 10th, 1895. A number of gentlemen interested in Botany met on that date at Professor Farlow's house in Cambridge, and before the evening was over an association was resolved upon and committees appointed to accomplish its organization.

As far as we are able to ascertain, this is the first club established, in the words of its constitution, "for the promotion of social intercourse and the dissemination of local and general information among gentlemen interested in the flora of New England."

That the time was ripe for the formation of such a club was made evident, when Mr. Warren H. Manning, in the spring of 1894, undertook the formation of an herbarium to represent the flora of the Boston



Metropolitan Parks. Mr. Manning requested the coöperation of all the botanists of the vicinity, and when they assembled it was noticed with surprise that the majority of them were strangers to one another. Until this time, many had carried on their studies and investigations entirely alone, the most favored ones having worked in little coteries of a few individuals. Of course, the professional botanists had reaped the advantage of their official connections, but the vast number of patient, diligent and observant workers, to whom botany is the pastime and pleasure of leisure hours, were slowly plodding their way into the mysteries of nature unaided by the advantages that are now offered so liberally by this club. Not the least disadvantage of this lack of interchange of experience was that some of the labor of these solitary investigators was misdirected, while much of it was many times duplicated.

The many excursions in common and the meetings called by Mr. Manning were a great stimulus to the botanists participating in the work on the Park Flora and in several quarters plans for the formation of an association were broached and discussed, but it was not until late in 1895, that some of the Cambridge botanists, under the leadership of Professor Farlow, Dr. Robinson, Mr. Walter Deane, Mr. E. L. Rand and a few others took the matter earnestly in hand and called the meeting which resulted in the formation of the club.

At first the meetings were held at the houses of some of the members, but by the summer of 1896, the club had grown to such proportions that it became necessary to find larger quarters and since then the club has met monthly, except during July, August and September, at the house of the St. Botolph Club in Boston. The membership consists now of forty-six resident and thirty-seven non-resident members. They represent every sort of vocation, showing how general is the interest in the study of plants. The professional botanists naturally are most numerous, and represent a considerable proportion of the higher educational institutions throughout New England. It speaks well, however, for the cultivation of the American business class, that it contributes to the club almost as many members as the professional botanists themselves, the remainder of the membership comprising teachers in the public and private schools, physicians, lawyers, literary men and men of leisure, but not of idleness, this favored class furnishing some of the most efficient members of the club.

An herbarium of New England plants has been established, which



now comprises nearly 12,000 sheets of well mounted and carefully identified phanerogamous plants and a large and valuable cryptogamic collection, which is not yet fully classified. The club has undertaken the preparation of a critical check-list of the New England plants and a card catalogue of plant stations is now under way.

Many facilities have been provided by the club for members and the meetings are always anticipated with interest and largely attended. It has been the aim of the club to make its advantages readily attainable and therefore the fees have been made merely nominal, the various undertakings of the club being supported by voluntary subscriptions.

#### STATIONS FOR SOME OF THE RARER PLANTS OF CONNECTICUT.

C. K. AVERILL.

*Asplenium Ruta-muraria* L. New Milford on limestone cliffs and ledges, not rare.

*Panicum barbulatum* Michx. In woods and thickets, Stratford.

*Streptopus roseus* Michx. New Milford, not common.

*Populus monilifera* Ait. In the Housatonic Valley at Falls Village, Lime Rock, Newtown; Abundant at Ansonia on the Naugatuck River, about two miles from its confluence with the Housatonic.

*Populus balsamifera* L. I was surprised to see this tree so far south of its known range, growing along the west bank of the Housatonic River in New Milford, for a distance of a mile or more, where it was shown me by Mr. E. H. Austin.

*Claytonia Caroliniana* Michx. New Milford, found by Mr. E. H. Austin, rare.

*Arenaria Michauxii* Hook. New Milford, on dry banks, rare.

*Hesperis matronalis* L. Bridgeport by roadside.

*Tiarella cordifolia* L. Kent, rare.

*Prunus Americana* Marsh. I have found this small tree in only two places, New Milford and Munroe. Since it is very conspicuous in time of flower I conclude that it is rather rare in western Connecticut.

*Ptelea trifoliata* L. One tall shrub found at Ansonia on meadows adjoining the Naugatuck River.